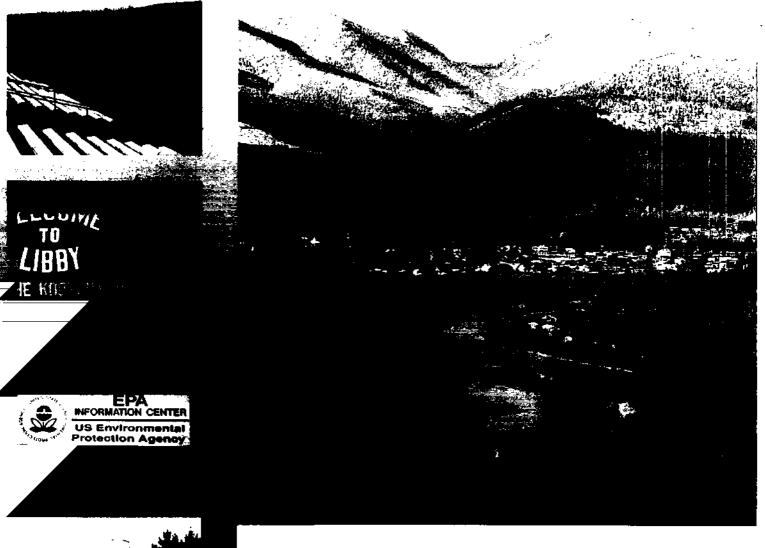




Investing in Libby's Future

Economic Development Support







Libby Asbestos Site Libby, Montana



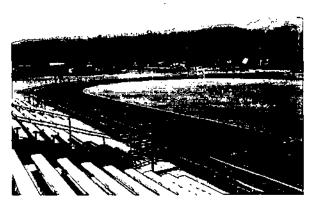
A Few Words about Economic Development and Superfund

EPA's primary responsibility at Superfund sites is to protect human health and the environment. However, the Superfund program does more than clean up hazardous waste sites. It also works to make those sites productive parts of the community again. EPA recognizes that many communities at or near Superfund sites are economically impacted. Similarly, Superfund cleanups may have a temporary effect on a community's economic health.

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Program helps communities return sites to safe and productive uses. In the process, EPA is committed to working with communities and other partners in considering future use opportunities and integrating appropriate reuse options into the cleanup process. EPA can also stimulate positive impacts through the cleanup, ensure that cleanup money is spent locally, and integrate cleanup options in a manner consistent with local land use plans.

At the Libby Asbestos Site, we've done our best to recognize and be sensitive to the unique concerns and needs of all residents while maintaining an aggressive cleanup schedule. We've looked for opportunities to work with residents; businesses; community groups; local, State, and Federal elected officials; and other stakeholders to identify ways that the investigation and remediation work can also serve to advance economic development in the community. This brochure highlights some of the actions we've taken to help Lincoln County's economic health. These actions include not only the direct financial assistance normally associated with economic development, but a myriad of other actions we've taken that help the community's image and financial bottom line. These efforts, while often unnoticed, require significant effort and resources.

We hope to continue helping make Lincoln County a safe and prosperous place to live and visit.



Libby high school track after cleanup and restoration

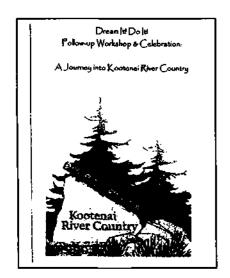


Screening Plant after cleanup



Dream It. Do It! Economic Revitalization Workshop for South Lincoln County April 24, 25, and 26, 2003 The potic is infect to stand a sensible designed to provide economic development leader in South Lincoln County with an opportunity benefit with syndroment leader in South Lincoln County with an opportunity benefit with syndroment leader in South Lincoln County with an opportunities of the syndroment of the syndroment leader in the syndroment leader. Just 12 - Workshop execution and green stand. 200 per 100 on an one of the syndroment leader in the syndroment leader. 12 of the syndroment leader in the syndroment leaders in the s

Workshop ad



Workshop program

Promoting Economic Development

The Need

Libby residents and the business community felt that an economic development event of some kind was needed to jump-start the many opportunities for economic development that have been envisioned and started, but stalled for a variety of reasons. These opportunities needed to be restarted and nurtured at a grassroots level to be implemented successfully.

EPA's Response - Economic Revitalization Workshops and Targeted Meetings

In response to this need, EPA facilitated and financially sponsored two very successful economic revitalization workshops in 2003 and a series of information meetings in 2005.

Dream It. Do It! April 2003

EPA funded and facilitated organization of the three-day *Dream It. Do It!* workshop. Local government, economic development groups, and citizens actively participated in identifying and obtaining speakers. There were 12 professionally-facilitated sessions, more than 30 speakers, and 220 attendees (including Senator Conrad Burns, Representative Dennis Rehberg, and nationally-known redevelopment speaker, Roger Brooks). Portions of the workshop were carried live on local radio.

Dream It. Do It! II - November, 2003

The community response to the original workshop was so positive that local economic revitalization groups organized and EPA financially sponsored a follow up event. This successful one-day workshop featured a return visit by Roger Brooks, an inspiring speaker on redevelopment, talking about developing a brand and marketing the town. More than 100 community members attended the workshop. The dynamic format involved all who attended and focused on the status of the Downtown Revitalization, Gateway Signs, Aquatic Center, Education, the Port Authority, the Stimson Mill, and Fiber Optics.

Informational Meetings for Target Groups

EPA held meetings targeted to specific business sectors and professions, beginning in April 2005, to discuss how Superfund cleanup may impact them. To date, meetings have been held for the real estate community (realtors, mortgage lenders, and appraisers) and for local contractors (general construction, electricians, plumbers, roofers, etc.). Additional meetings are planned for other groups. The location, timing, and format of the meetings have been tailored to the needs of the audience.

Results

The response to these workshops and meetings from the local community was very encouraging. For example:

- The workshops received positive press in the local media and an upbeat response from citizens.
- The Lincoln County Tourism Coalition was formed to spearhead future efforts. They have since received non-profit status. Their mission statement is Enhancing tourism for Lincoln County through education, promotion, and infrastructure. They attended the last two Governor's conferences on tourism.
- A brand name was developed for the Lincoln County area Kootenai River Country, and the tag line for that brand is Montana's Great Northwest Rich, Rare, and Remote. These will be used to market the area. "Gateway Signs" with the brand name are now in place.
- Networking relationships were developed between locals with similar redevelopment interests and experts that could provide advice.
- Groups which had previously been unaligned came together to work for a common goal of improving the area's economy. These include: snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts, motorcyclists, and back country horsemen.
- A group composed primarily of downtown business people, Libby Revitalization, Inc., is working on a "Streetscape Project" to improve and enhance the downtown area of Libby.
- Attendance was good for both the real estate and contractor's meetings.



Gateway sign with brand name



Libby Revitalization streetscape



Western News story after revitalization workshop





Former Stimson Mill site

Promoting Redevelopment

The Need

The former Stimson Mill site on the east side of Libby is a large, well-sited property that has the potential to house Libby business tenants, bring in local revenue, be a recreation area, and be a source of pride for the community. A comprehensive assessment of the potentially contaminated area was needed to allow Lincoln County to safely pursue redevelopment of the property.

EPA's Response - Port Authority Cooperative Agreement, 2004 - 2005

In response, EPA signed a Cooperative Agreement with the Lincoln County Port Authority to provide \$50,000 for land-use planning at the former Stimson Mill property. The agreement is active until late 2005 and was intended to facilitate development of a site plan that would "encourage productive and non-conflicting development of the diverse landscape."

Land-use planning work was split into phases to provide market evaluation, engineering assessment, and site design services within the agreement:

- Phase 1: Environmental sampling data collection relevant to the area and property, a site and community tour, and selected local interviews
- Phase 2: Assessment of site infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.)
- Phase 3: Assessment of existing facilities, structural engineering work, electrical and plumbing, fire inspection, etc.
- Phase 4: Physical site assessment, land use planning, and cost estimate
- Phase 5: Marketing plan and potential funding sources

The Results

- The Port Authority's consultant has collected information and future land-use plans are being evaluated. Community meetings have been held to discuss findings and recommendations.
- Land-use plans for Stimson are evolving. The Port Authority was able to notify EPA in advance of several events planned for the area.
- EPA provided high-resolution aerial photographs of Libby to Lincoln County for future land-use planning and for other initiatives.
- Reasonably anticipated future land-uses for Stimson will be considered by EPA and incorporated into our long-term cleanup decisions. This will help ensure the cleanup is not restrictive of future land uses.



Helping Businesses with Clean Up

The Need

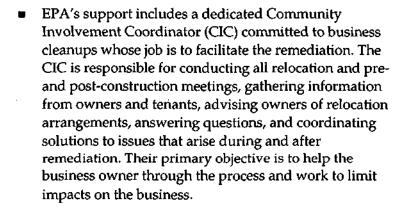
Before clean up of local businesses began, the business community was concerned about how cleanup events at their properties would affect their business. Their biggest concern was the fear of severe economic hardship if cleanups happened during the peak tourist seasons or other high-profit seasons, took too long, or drove away potential customers.

EPA's Response - Proactive Assistance for Business Owners



Businesses on Mineral Avenue

- EPA developed a proactive assistance program for businesses scheduled for remediation.
- EPA regularly meets with business owners who may undergo clean up.
- EPA listens to their concerns and works to limit any impacts.
- When businesses are scheduled for clean up, EPA will schedule at the owner's convenience, wherever possible.





Individual CIC Support

The Results

Business cleanups started in 2005, and EPA realizes that these cleanups are a hardship for local businesses. It is difficult to predict how the program will improve over time. However, EPA has received feedback from the business community based on initial meetings with business owners. This feedback indicates that the implemented procedures will help to ease concerns, identify problems in advance so they can be corrected, and build goodwill within the community.



Supporting the Real Estate Community

The Need

Libby leaders and the real estate community were concerned that the investigation and cleanup work being done by EPA would slow or stop home sales, make appraisals cumbersome, and make financing more difficult, if not impossible to obtain. Residents felt that new homebuyers would be scared of buying property in Libby and home values would plummet. The community wanted assistance from EPA to prevent or minimize these potential problems.

EPA's Response – A Multi-Phased Assistance Approach

In response to this need, EPA developed a multi-phased assistance approach for the real estate community.



"Comfort Letters" for Residents

EPA has written hundreds of "comfort letters" to support real estate transactions. These letters describe the work that will be done at the property in question and assure the buyer that clean up will occur at no cost to them. Homebuyers, appraisers, and mortgage lenders have found these letters to be extremely useful in answering some of the uncertainties associated with a Superfund cleanup. When requested, EPA has talked with loan officers, appraisers, potential buyers, etc. to provide the additional information necessary to complete mortgage transactions.



Mortgage Lending Meeting, November 2001

EPA arranged for representatives of federal mortgage insurers, lenders and loan underwriters to attend meetings in Libby, make presentations about what they look for in loan packages and answer the community's questions about effects of Superfund designation on real estate transactions.

Priority Sampling to Accommodate Pending Sales

EPA makes the sampling of properties pending sale a priority, and we regularly adjust our schedules to accommodate these requests. We've also worked with local real estate professionals to develop a system for getting sampling information to the right parties without violating privacy concerns.

Real Estate Meeting, April 2005

EPA held a half-day meeting tailored to the needs and concerns of the real estate community. Realtors, mortgage, lenders, and appraisers in Troy and Libby and members of the Northwest Montana Realtors Association were also invited to attend. The topics included: lender liability, "comfort letters", disclosure to buyers and renters, general cleanup issues, and upcoming events and process.

Eighteen real estate professionals from the Libby and Troy area attended the meeting. The interaction was productive for the real estate professionals and for EPA. We identified several additional actions we can take to facilitate smooth real estate transactions.

The Results

The results of this proactive assistance program show that real estate sales are robust and transactions do not appear to be unduly hampered by cleanup issues. Real estate professional (including realtors, bankers, and appraisers) are better educated on the asbestos issues and are much more confident:

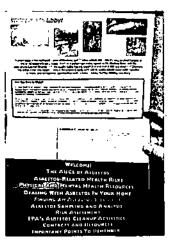


- Sales of commercial, multi-family, residential, and land in Libby increased from 139 (\$11 million) in 2002 to 223 (\$17 million) in 2004 – an increase of over 60%.
- In its October 30, 2004 issue, the Western News reported that Libby Board of Realtors stated that "Libby-Troy area real estate agents are enjoying the best market in several years."
- Appraisal reports are reasonable in their assessment of the cleanup's effect on the local market. A 2004 appraisal stated, "The market appears to be stable even with consideration to the EPA's Superfund designation concerning asbestos" and "There is no evidence from the marketplace that prices have had a negative affect from the Superfund designation."
- The real estate community has expressed its gratitude to EPA about the workshops tailored to their needs.





Libby, Montana



Asbestos brochure

Erasing the Stigma - Supporting the Tow:

The Need

The community was concerned that the Superfund designation was a stigma from which Libby could not recover. EPA needed to take measures to educate the community, visitors, and potential investors about the true scope of risks and the work that was being done to address them.

EPA's Response - Reaching out to the Community

EPA has consistently tried to be very balanced when dealing with asbestos risk. We are careful to explain the risks, without creating undue fear in the community and those interested in visiting. We have worked to educate and communicate in order to present accurate information and limit the stigma associated with Superfund and asbestos at Libby. With few exceptions, media contact is rarely initiated and is virtually always positive. We put a "welcome to Libby" message out. EPA is committed to making sure the people of Libby have access to the information they need about the site.

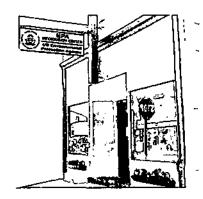
Libby-Friendly Website and Brochure

Because those interested in visiting or moving to Libby are likely to investigate Libby on the internet, EPA developed a Libby-friendly, Superfund website that is user-friendly and presents not just cleanup information, but the positive attributes that Libby has to offer (see contacts page for website). The website is based on a brochure EPA developed as a community resource. The 12-page brochure covers a variety of topics related to asbestos and the cleanup in Libby. It presents risks in an objective manner. It shows that, while there is contamination in Libby, it is being addressed, and Libby is a great place to live.

EPA's Local Information Center

EPA's local Information Center at 501 Mineral Avenue is a resource for the community and visitors who need information on EPA's work in Libby, either in general or as it relates to their property. Residents can read documents, pick up copies of brochures, check the clean-up schedule, and meet with EPA staff.

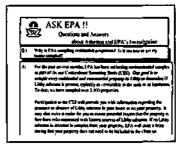
Because the Information Center is located in the downtown area, EPA maintains the exterior appearance in compliance with the spirit of revitalization. Local leaders have complimented the appearance of the Information Center and used the EPA hanging sign as an example of the type of sign appropriate for downtown.



EPA Information Center



Assisting the public



Q&A Ads

Community Education and Outreach

EPA puts significant effort into developing tools to help the public understand the asbestos-related risk and the Superfund activities in the Libby area. We look for ways to increase awareness, so that people understand the risks, but still know that Libby is a great place to live. Examples of this educational outreach include:

- Sponsorship of two conferences on asbestos risk issues these events provided information and promoted discussion on public health issues related to asbestos and drew attendees from agencies, the public, and private sector industry. EPA also conducted targeted informational meetings, public meetings, and workshops.
- Financial support of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Technical Assistance Group (TAG) and a special two-day TAG education workshop in Denver.
- Placement of question and answer (Q&A) format ads in the local papers and broadcast locally to address concerns and questions and a monthly "Superfund and You" column in local papers to inform people of timely process and technical issues
- Preparation of numerous topic-specific fact sheets (mailed to the entire community), production of a cleanup video that explains the cleanup process to residents, and preparation of customized information packets to explain the cleanup and relocation processes to residents.

The Results

The results of this effort to educate and communicate are evidenced by:

- High satisfaction ratings in community surveys (alm 80% of respondents to a recent survey mailed to the entire community said that EPA was doing a satisfactory or very good job).
- A favorable view of fact sheets, direct mailings, newspaper ads, and articles as a method of obtaining information on the project. Most of the respondents of a recent community-wide survey indicated that these were the information transfer methods they preferred.
- Invitations to speak at group/community meetings. An examples is a presentation to the local Rotary Club during their lunchtime meeting.



Meetings with residents



Responding to Immediate Concerns

The Need

The Libby Asbestos Project is extremely dynamic. Given the complexity of site issues and diversity of opinions, it is impossible to predict all potential problems. EPA strives to be flexible and to react to special concerns as we encounter them.

EPA's Response

EPA has accommodated numerous immediate and special concerns while still keeping the cleanup on track. The concerns have arisen from local government, local business, and local residents. They include:

- Libby Contaminant Screening Study (CSS) in 2003 was the largest single season sampling event in EPA history (~4,200 properties)
- EPA cleanup is now approaching 200 properties per year
- Sampling the proposed motocross track to facilitate use of former Stimson Mill
- Support of City of Libby Johnson Acres water/sewer project
- Prioritized clean up of J. Neils Park
- Rapid clean up of Libby boat ramp area during conversion to public park

- Restoration of school tracks and ice rinks
- Respirators and decontamination facilities supplied to firefighters during 2nd Hand Store fire
- Sampling of fire fighters to prevent unknowing transfer of asbestos contamination
- Clean up of schools on a priority basis
- Prioritized sampling of properties pending sale
- HEPA vacuums provided free of charge to local schools



Libby field team

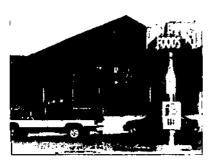
The Results

- The Libby cleanup was able to move more quickly and effectively using the data from the CSS, and faster cleanups lead to streamlined real estate transactions and peace of mind for residents and business owners.
- There were no, or very limited, closures of public areas.
 Events in public areas, such as the motocross and J. Neils
 Park, were held as planned and provided important recreational dollars.
- Construction efforts, such as improvements to the City boat ramp and public park were completed in less than a year – despite contamination that was discovered during construction - with no loss of grant money to the City. The Johnson Acres project is being constructed with little increase in project cost due to asbestos concerns.

STATES STATES OF THE PROTECTION

Local business

Local business



Local business

Doing Business in Libby

The Need

The community was interested in supporting the cleanup program and providing opportunities to local businesses. They wanted EPA to make an effort to spend money and hire locally, wherever possible. Governor Martz made this a specific request when Libby was proposed for the Superfund list.

EPA's Response - Maximize Dollars Locally

Wherever possible, EPA has made a concerted effort to spend money locally within the constraints of the federal procurement regulations, financial limitations, and project needs. EPA estimates that approximately \$8 million per year was spent locally in 2003 and 2004. We expect similar expenditures for the next several years.

Spending Locally

The Libby project contributes considerably to the local economy in many of ways, including:

- salaries paid to local workers
- personal purchases (such as groceries, clothes, gas, rent, etc.) by workers
- personal use of local services by the project team (doctors, dentists, veterinarians, taxidermists, etc.)
- project purchases (equipment and supplies)
- project rentals (buildings, furniture, equipment, etc.)
- patronage of local services (restaurants, bars, movie theater, newspapers)
- property and income taxes
- rental of local vehicles for the field team
- local housing (home rental and hotels)

Wherever possible, EPA's contractors and subcontractors shop locally to support the Libby area economy.





Local worker





Hiring Locally

While EPA cannot require our contractors to hire locally, we encourage them to use local labor and contractors whenever appropriate. Our contractors have been very responsive to this request. Approximately 40 to 70 direct local hires have worked on the project each year since 2001. Available jobs are listed through the Kootenai Job Service so that the community is always aware of employment opportunities on the project.

Much of the work that is done on the Libby project is specialized and technical. Federal contracting processes are very specific and require EPA to use contractors that have been through a rigorous selection process. As of September 2005, the Libby field team included 86 people, 65 of whom were local hires. These included Volpe (1 total); the construction oversight contractor, CDM (29 total, 13 local hires); and the construction contractors ER (47 total, 45 local hires) and MCS (9 total, 7 local hires).

Supporting the Port Authority

EPA prioritized the cleanup of the Stimson Central Maintenance Building to support the redevelopment goals of the Port Authority. EPA's contractor, CDM, consolidated their operations by moving from several temporary structures into a single office space at the Stimson property. The long-term lease of this property supports the redevelopment goals of the Port Authority and sets the example that this property is safe for use.

Supporting Local Health Care

EPA consistently lobbies for health-care services to be provided locally. We've supported the Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD clinic) since its inception, providing equipment as well as financial and technical assistance. We provided equipment to St. John's Lutheran Hospital and compensated them for parking space our contractor utilized for a local office.

The Results

The positive results of this effort to spend and hire locally are:

- Support of the local economy through influx of project money.
- Enhanced relationship between the project team and the citizens of Libby.
- Development of a local workforce that helps to support the local economy and control project costs.
- Promotion of redevelopment of valuable, but formerly undesirable, land.
- Support of the CARD clinic as it grows into a critical health care facility and potential research center.



Being Part of the Community

The Need

Contracting limitations, the technical nature of the cleanup, and concerns regarding asbestos liability mean that many key EPA field team members are not from Libby. There was a concern in the community that EPA's contractors were not part of the local community, did not interact with the community, and did not share their values or concerns.

EPA's Response

Most of our contractors live in Libby, either year-round or on a seasonal basis. They attend local churches, shop at local stores, and recreate nearby. Their children attend local schools. Because this is their home, too, they are concerned about the community and lend a helping hand to make Libby a better place. The following are just a few examples of that outreach to the community.

- Contractor fundraiser for the CARD clinic/
 E:ABC's documentary
- Troy Easter egg hunt
- Annual VFW flag program
- Canned food drive to benefit the food pantry
- Wings Lincoln Co. cancer support fund
- Kootenai Pets for Life raffle support
- St. Johns Lutheran Hospital health fair
- Sponsorship of "Libby Bucks" through the Chamber of Commerce
- Support for breast cancer awareness
- St. Johns Lutheran Hospital run/walk

- Libby aerial print and framing to Libby asbestos fair
- The Libby High School cell phone/ink cartridge fundraiser
- CPR class via Dave Thompson Search and Rescue to raise funds for them
- EPA vs. girls softball team helped generate money for team trip to the national tournament in Wisconsin by playing a softball game against them; money for runs!
- "Close Up" raffle tickets to support LHS students' trip to Washington D.C.
- Libby Rotary Club donations via silent auction items



CDM employees presenting a check at CARD fundraiser

The Results

The result of this connection to the community is that our contractors and subcontractors are more aware of the issues and concerns facing residents and are better able to respond to them. Also, the local community is better able to understand and trust the people working on this project. Cleanup workers and companies have donated thousands of dollars to local charities and organizations.





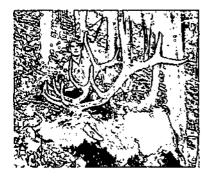
A Safe and Thorough Clean Up

Despite technical, scientific, administrative and financial challenges, we are working to complete a safe, thorough cleanup in an efficient, rapid manner. That is our #1 priority, and it is the best thing we can do for Libby – from either a public health or an economic standpoint. We are on track to complete the entire clean up in Libby in a matter of years. Approximately 10% of the nation's entire Superfund cleanup budget was dedicated to the Libby Asbestos Site during both 2003 and 2004. We will continue to devote the vast majority of our resources toward completing a safe, rapid, and scientifically defensible cleanup in Libby and Troy.

EPA has worked to limit the impacts of the investigation and clean up in Libby. We've also provided some limited financial assistance, when appropriate. While there will continue to be challenges and setbacks, the benefits of our past and present efforts are beginning to become evident in brisk real estate sales, local initiatives coming to fruition, solvent local businesses, new tourism developments, and less negative press regarding Libby – the opposite of what was expected a few years ago. We will continue to look for opportunities to help Lincoln County's image and financial bottom line, while working to complete the cleanup and remove areas from the Superfund list as quickly as possible.







Community Resources

Many individuals, agencies, and organizations are working to solve the asbestos-related problems in Libby. If you have a desire to get involved, need help, or just want to stay informed, you can:

Visit the EPA Information Center

Your primary local contact for information about the Libby Site is the EPA's Information Center (see box at left). The Center has free fact sheets and other publications, and the staff can answer many of your questions or direct you to the proper source.

Read Printed Resources

A variety of printed resources have been prepared by EPA and other agencies, and they are available to the public. Detailed plans, reports, studies, and decision documents are also available. There are short descriptive pamphlets, fact sheets, Q&As, booklets, brochures, news releases, and news clippings. Stop by the Information Center to view these materials and/or obtain copies.

Attend a CAG Meeting

Representatives from diverse interests in Libby make up the Community Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG provides a forum for community residents to hear the latest site information, find out about documents that are available for review, hear and make presentations, express concerns, and make recommendations. EPA and DEQ support the CAG. Attending the meetings is an excellent opportunity to stay informed. Meetings are held the second Thursdays of each month, in the Ponderosa Room of City Hall, from 7 to 9 pm. Call 293-6194 for more information.

TAG Group Meetings

EPA provides a technical assistance grant (TAG) to communities to form a TAG group. The Libby TAG's monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. Call 293-6194 for more information.

Read the Biweekly Q&A in the Local Papers

EPA publishes a Q&A notice in the *Montanian* and *Western* News twice a month that answers a topical question on the work being conducted in Libby.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

General Information on EPA's Work in Libby

EPA Information Center

501 Mineral Avenue, Libby, MT 59923 293-6194

EPA Managers

Peggy Churchill (303) 312-6137

Remedial Project Manager churchill.peggy@epa.gov

Mike Cirian 293-6194

On-site Construction Manager cirian.mike@EPA.gov

Montana Department of Env. Quality

Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau

Catherine LeCours 841-5040

clecours@.mt.gov

Asbestos Control Program

John Podolinsky 444-3490 jpodolinsky@.mt.gov

Local Government and Other Contacts

City of Libby - Mayor 293-2731 Libby School District Superintendent 293-8811

Lincoln County Government Offices
Commission

293-7781 x207

Department of Env. Health 293-7781 x228 Economic Development Council 293-8406 Health Officer 293-7781 x228

Other

Chamber of Commerce 293-4167

Services

Asbestos Related Disease Screening

Libby Center for Asbestos Related 293-9274
Disease (CARD)

Mental Health Services

CARD Outreach Recovery Assistance 293-9274 Program (CORA)

Smoking Cessation Assistance

Libby Community Interagencies 293-3951

Unless noted, all area codes are 406

Photo credits: cover (bridge) Maggie Craig, (Libby sign) Kootenai River Development Council, (large photo) xxxxxx; page 3 (drawing) CTA, Bozeman; page 7 (realtor sign) beaglewoodrealtors.com; page 8 (Libby) LibbyMT.com; page 11 (Dome Theater, Empire Foods, Libby Floral) LibbyMT.org; page 14 (bikers) LibbyMT.com, (children) LibbyMT.org/Nordicfest; back cover (bumper sticker) Libby.org; all other photos, CDM.



Local bumper sticker

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the EPA Information Center at 293-6194 or visit us at 501 Mineral Avenue, Libby, Montana.